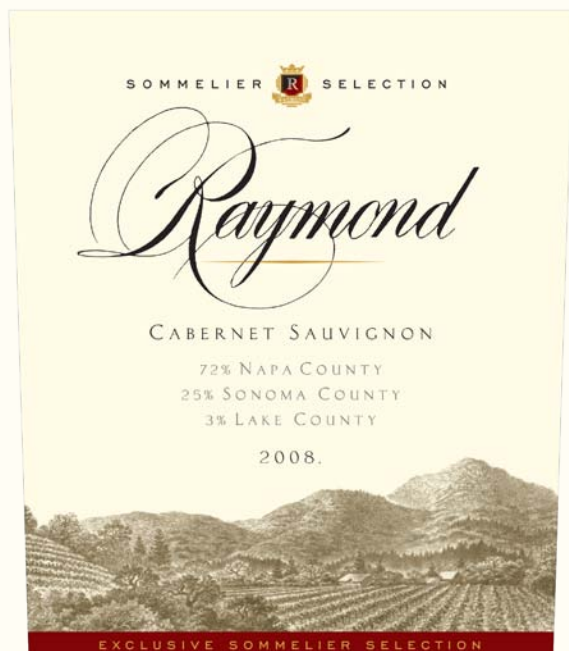


NAPA VALLEY

Raymond

2008 SOMMELIER SELECTION CABERNET SAUVIGNON



TECHNICAL NOTES

APPELLATION: 72% NAPA COUNTY,
25% SONOMA COUNTY, 3% LAKE
COUNTY

ALCOHOL: 14.1% BY VOL.

PH: 3.62

TA: 6.5 G/L

CASE PRODUCTION: 4400

IN THE VINEYARD

The season started off cool and rainy but the spring was one of the driest on record. Growers were initially predicting a very early harvest, however, because of the cooler summer it started just a little ahead of normal. A heat spell early in September kicked everyone into high gear as several varieties were ready to pick all at once, but just as quickly as the heat arrived, the temperatures dropped to well below normal and there was time to catch up. All in all, 2008 was as a low-yielding, yet high-quality vintage.

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE WINEMAKERS

The winemaking team, along with Jean-Charles Boisset hosted the blending series at Raymond with seven influential sommeliers. From this blending session, the 2008 Sommelier Selection was crafted.

The blending session started with background on the individual components, and the framework for the blending exercise. Teams of two were paired together and asked to submit their preferred blends from two Napa Cabernets, one Napa Cabernet Franc, one Napa Merlot, one Sonoma Cabernet, one Sonoma Merlot, and one Lake County Cabernet. Each team crafted two favorite blends, and submitted them for review by the panel of sommeliers and the Raymond winemaking team. A blind taste test and ranking revealed the winning blend.

WINE PROFILE

The winning blend was replicated on a larger scale to create our 2008 Sommelier Selection Cabernet Sauvignon, which is a full-bodied elegant wine brimming with blackberry, cherry and cassis flavors. The Cabernet blend is comprised of fruit from the Napa Valley, Sonoma County, and Lake County. Napa Valley is the backbone of the blend, with its terroir providing the fullest expression of black fruits and integrated tannins; Sonoma County's fog influence produces grapes that give the wine structure, balance and acidity; Lake County's growing season is short, making for red, jammy wines that are easy to enjoy.